

DPW UPDATE

MAY 2002

LUEG EMPLOYEE FAIR 2002

By Jessica Eslinger, Staff Writer

Have you heard of the Glassy Winged Sharpshooter or avocado root rot? Do you know which San Diego County beach had the most closures last year or how many acres of parkland the County maintains?

You'll find the answers to these and other baffling questions at this year's Land Use and Environmental Group (LUEG) Employee Fair. The event takes place May 21 and 22 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Scottish Rite Center in Mission Valley.

For the third consecutive year, LUEG departments will display what they do and how they do it through a variety of booths and hands-on exhibits. With a wealth of diversity between departments and sections, "Who We Are Makes a Difference" is an appropriate theme for the occasion.

"Employees get to share their knowledge and unique experiences with one another," said Candis Compton, DPW's representative on the fair committee. "With more than 1,500 LUEG employees, that kind of information is key to establishing an efficient and friendly workplace."

Keynote speakers include Desi Rosenfield and David Lapin from Strategic Business Ethics. They will discuss workplace diversity and tolerance, and how these topics affect County employees.

Department heads will be recognizing award-winning employees. A presentation will be made on upcoming stormwater activities, and how they'll affect our fieldwork in the future. Also, the new LUEG employee video will be shown, highlighting the people, projects and customer service strategies of different LUEG departments and sections.

"Last year, we focused on projects," said Wendi Pomerance, chair of the LUEG All Hands Meeting Committee. "This year we're recognizing that it's what we do and who we are as people that makes LUEG so successful."

Bike to Work Day

Two-wheelers for commuters will be the rule of the day Friday, May 17. That's when thousands of cyclists from around the County will participate in Bike to Work Day.

Sponsored by the County of San Diego and other organizations, the event promotes bicycling to work as a way to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution. DPW hosts the County pit stop at the corner of Ruffin Road and Clairemont Mesa Boulevard from 6-9 a.m.

"We get more than 150 riders at our stop each year," said Bill Polick who coordinates the displays, snacks and cycling information for the department. "This sends a strong message for alternative transportation."



Area transportation agencies provide free rides for cyclists on buses, trolleys and the Coaster. All buses in the County are equipped with bike racks, Polick said. This allows riders to cycle part-way and ride the bus the rest of the commute.

Bike to Work Day 2001

DPW UPDATE

MAY 2002

Ramona Air Fair Expands to 3 Days

Bigger and better are two words that describe this year's Ramona Air Fair. The event runs May 31, June 1-2. This is the first time the Air Fair will run three days.

Activities kick off Friday from 5 – 10 p.m. with a dance, formation flights, aircraft displays and demonstrations, a hot air balloon launch with nightglow effects and fireworks. Admission is \$5 per adult or \$8 per couple. Kids get in free.



Saturday night's dance with a live band is new to the schedule this year.

Admission and other events will be the same as Friday, minus fireworks.

Events during the day on Saturday and Sunday are free to everyone and include firefighting demonstrations; military fly-bys; static displays of military, antique, home-built and experimental aircraft; fire attack aircraft demonstrations; and skydiving exhibitions. Community groups will sell food and beverages.

Hot air balloon rides return to Ramona Air Fair.

CELLULAR PHONE SAFETY GUIDELINES

By Jack Thompson, Safety Officer

Today, with more than 50 million cellular phones in use, making a call from your car is easy, convenient, and an important part of your daily routine. However, when you are behind the wheel of your vehicle, your focus should be on defensive driving, not making phone calls.

Using your cellular phone safely and efficiently means rethinking how often and how necessary it is to place the call. Following are some safety tips for cellular phone use developed for Department of Public Works employees based on information and recommendations from the National Safety Council, Ameritech, and the Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Safety:

1. Don't dial and drive. When appropriate, pull off the road into a safe area like a rest stop or exit, and stop the vehicle completely before dialing. Please note that pulling off on the shoulder of the road, especially on state freeways, is prohibited unless an emergency exists.
2. Set speed-dialing for frequently called numbers.
3. Use a hands-free speakerphone.
4. Never take notes while driving.
5. Let your voice mail pick up calls when it is unsafe to answer.
6. Keep your cellular phone within easy reach at all times.
7. When answering the phone, be cognizant of your surroundings and your ability to safely operate the vehicle.
8. If you are in a crash or witness a crash, immediately place a toll-free 911 emergency call to ensure help arrives promptly. Note your surroundings so you can give authorities an accurate description of your location. Wait at the crash scene for police to arrive.

DPW UPDATE

MAY 2002

9. Keep your mind on your driving at all times. This may include ending a call abruptly.

To ensure your safety, limit cellular phone use while driving to only those calls that are absolutely necessary. This may be a recommendation now, but get used to it because it may be law before you know it.

Division News

Management Services

MOVIN' ON UP

After six months of moving trucks and temporary workstations, the big DPW move is finally complete, beating its deadline of March 31, 2002.

An estimated 150 full-time staff and student workers were transported during that time, establishing over 140 new/different workstations.

The move was initiated when Larry Watt, Deputy Director of Transportation Division, began assessing alternatives to the expensive lease at Seville Plaza. Space consolidation seemed the best answer, and after suggesting the move to the executive team, Roberto Salazar was assigned the task of facilitating an entire DPW transformation.

Sections that relocated include: Transit Services, Information Technology, Airports Administration, Financial Services, Special Districts, Wastewater/Flood Control, Hydrology, Environmental Services, Field Engineering and Traffic Engineering and Loss Mitigation.

Relocating these 10 sections will save the County \$282,000 annually by increasing usage of County-owned space and reducing leased space expenditures. The savings have been earmarked for the Quality First Program and other DPW needs.

Because of the move, Airports Administration has direct access to the aviation community, and Wastewater/Flood Control and Hydrology are housed in the same facility as their deputy director, Doug Isbell.

Salazar received a Director's Award in April for his efforts and several employees received teamwork awards for their assistance.

Land Development

Back Home, Ramona Rats Go Down The Tube

When Stephens' Kangaroo Rats were discovered at Ramona Airport during an improvement project, biologists stepped in to protect the endangered species. Because heavy equipment and loud noise threatened the rat's habitat, scientists captured and moved them to a secure location during construction. Each was numbered, catalogued, examined and monitored for several months.

With work on the runway extension nearly complete, the rats returned home in mid April. The rats weren't just dumped from their containers into the field, however. Special cardboard tubes were inserted into the ground and the burrowing rodents were placed inside and a protective cap secured the end to prevent predator problems.

DPW UPDATE

MAY 2002



Biologists place Kangaroo Rat in cardboard tube at Ramona Airport.



Cardboard tube with protective cover protected Kangaroo Rats when they were returned to their habitat.



Transportation

EO Testing = Levers, Gears, Gauges

When Nathan Wright stepped into the cab of a backhoe, it wasn't just to dig a trench and refill it. Nearby, Roberto De La Torre kept watch.

Wright was taking his exam for promotion to equipment operator. While most County jobs require a written test, the EO exam means demonstrating your skill with machine operation.

Some 16 candidates tried for six openings in Roads. Tests were given on backhoe, loader, grader, sweeper and dump truck.